

REMARKS

Claims 3-11, 20, and 22-27 are pending.

Claims 3, 6-10, 20, 22, and 24 are allowed.

Claims 4, 5, 11, 23, and 25-27 are rejected.

Claim 24 was objected to.

Claims 4, 5, 11, 23, and 25-27 have been rejected.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 4, in view of the change in dependency via the last response, repeats subject matter found in section (b) of claim 6. In response, Claim 4 has been cancelled.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. §102

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fickelscheer. In response, Claim 5 has been amended to depend from allowed Claim 6.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. §103

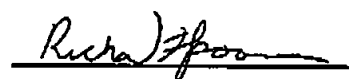
Claims 11, 25, 26, and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DEAM in view of Applicant's admitted prior art at page 2, lines 11-24 of the instant specification. In response, claims 11, 25, 26 and 27 have been cancelled.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 20, 22, and 24 stand allowed. Claim 5 is also now believed allowable.

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection. Also, an early indication of allowability is earnestly solicited. Entrance of this amendment as well as reconsideration and allowance of the claims remaining are therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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